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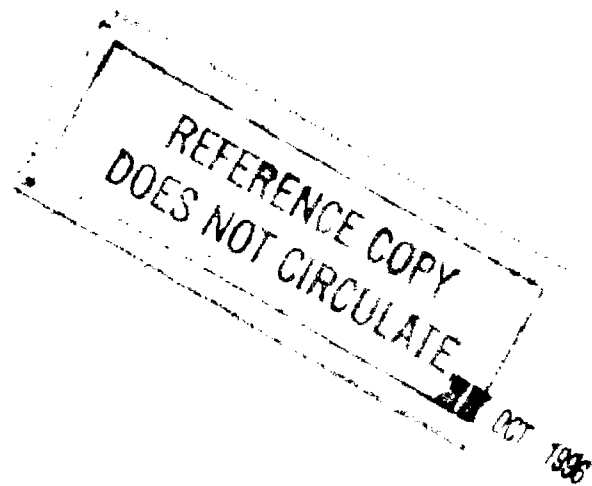


An Economical System for Measuring, Monitoring, and Controlling the Rate of Repetitive Events

Thomas Kottke

ARL-MR-180

September 1994



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1. INTRODUCTION

The ability to measure, monitor, and control the frequency of a repetitive event is a common requirement in many laboratory and applied environments. This report presents a detailed description of an economical integrated hardware/software system that has been developed to perform these functions. Originally, this system evolved out of the need to economically monitor and control the rotational frequency of optical chopper wheels. A common method for registering each revolution of such a wheel is to include a single tab on the outer radius that is configured to pass between a light source and a photosensitive detector. As the tab passes between the light source and the sensor, the light beam is blocked and the additional revolution is denoted. For ease of application, the necessary hardware has been included to drive an infrared (IR) light-emitting-diode (LED) and process signals from a PIN diode photosensitive detector. However, the application of this system is not limited to scenarios that involve the physical breaking of a light beam. Indeed, any repetitive activity that indicates each cycle by the change in state of a digital signal can be considered.

A considerable amount of flexibility has been built into this system by the inclusion of microprocessor control. In addition to handling the actual counting operations and updating a numeric display, this microprocessor monitors and controls a number of digital inputs and outputs. Digital inputs are used to count events and alter the microprocessor mode of operation. The processing capability of the microprocessor is then used to calculate and display frequency trends and control external devices via the digital outputs. Thus, the use of microprocessor control allows this system to not only be applied to a wide variety of uses but also to serve multiple roles in each application.

This report includes an extensive presentation of the system's hardware and software. The main text includes schematic diagrams, circuit descriptions, and an explanation of the software that is required to drive the hardware. Appendix A contains

fabrication details such as printed circuit board masks and a parts list. The particular software that was used to monitor chopper wheel rotational frequencies is listed and documented in Appendix B.

2. SYSTEM HARDWARE

2.1 Hardware Overview. The heart of the electronic hardware for this system is the 16C55 microcontroller manufactured by Microchip Technology Incorporated.* This very large scale integrated component is powerful enough to be considered a stand-alone computer on a single integrated circuit (IC) (Microchip Technology Inc. 1992). The features of this microcontroller include 512 words of erasable program read-only memory (EPROM), 24 words of 8-bit random access memory (RAM), 8 special function registers, and clock speeds of up to 20 MHz. Thus, this IC can contain its own instructions (which do not disappear when the power is turned off but can be changed when required), temporarily store and manipulate transient data, count pulses, input data, output data, and do it all in a hurry (and all this at a price that is less than the author's hourly salary!). Anyway, the 16C55 microcontroller coordinates the functions of the other three major hardware subsystems--the processing circuitry for the repetitive input signals, the timing circuitry that determines the amount of time repetitive pulses are to be tallied for, and the numeric display circuitry. Each of these three subsystems will now be considered in detail with emphasis placed on the way the subsystems interface with the microcontroller. Then the microcontroller will be reconsidered in detail, which will naturally lead to a discussion of the software that is used to drive the microcontroller. All discussions of electronic circuitry will refer to Figure 1, which is a complete schematic of the system hardware.

2.2 Input Signal Processing. The input signal processing circuitry includes the provisions that have been made to power a light source and obtain signals from the photosensitive detector that the light source illuminates. Recall that the blocking of this

* The Microchip name is a registered trademark of Microchip Technology Inc., 2355 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler, AZ 85224-6199, (602) 786-7200.

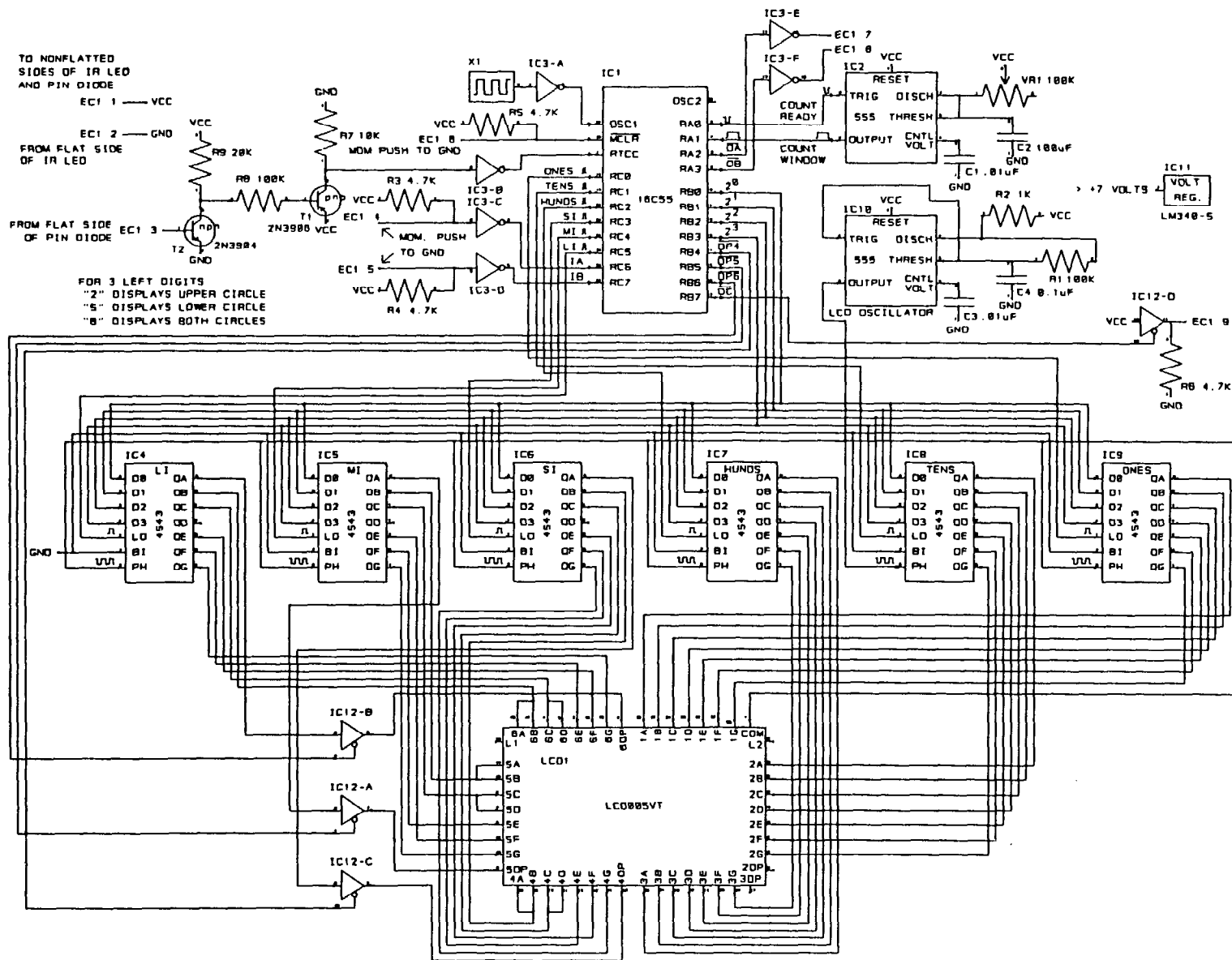


Figure 1. Electronic schematic of the frequency monitoring hardware.

light path can be used to denote repetitive events. The light source that is used in this application is an IR LED which requires little to drive it other than a voltage source in excess of 1.2 V and a series resistor to limit the current through the LED to less than 50 mA. Therefore, the hardware provisions for this light source are minimal. Connector EC1 1 supplies +5 V to the LED which is referenced to the ground potential at EC1 2. It is assumed that the current limiting resistor will be connected to the external LED. Thus, the IR LED light source is wired as shown in the left portion of Figure 2. For this specific application, a 1-k Ω current-limiting resistor was used to limit the LED current to a conservative and power-saving 5 mA.

The circuitry that processes the signal from the PIN diode photosensitive detector is only slightly more involved. PIN diodes get their name from their structural configuration--a high-resistance intrinsic layer of semiconductor material that is sandwiched between a layer of p-type semiconductor and a layer of n-type semiconductor. When a potential is applied across this structure, the high resistance of the intrinsic layer ensures that a large electric field will be associated with this central region. In particular, if this device is reverse biased (a negative potential applied to the p-type material relative to a positive potential to the n-type material), the charge carriers will be swept away from the intrinsic layer, leaving a depletion region that will not allow bias current to flow through this junction. However, if light of sufficient energy is incident on the PIN junction, then electron-hole pairs will be produced and swept from the intrinsic material by the local electric field. Thus, light on the reverse-biased PIN diode produces an electric current. Because these currents are small, they need to be amplified. This is why the signals from the PIN diodes need to be processed.

Transistors are current-magnifying devices and so they are used to amplify the current generated by the PIN diode. The +5-V potential at connector EC1 1 is used to reverse bias the PIN diode by connecting this potential to the diode's cathode. The anode is routed through connector EC1 3 to the base of an npn transistor, which is configured as a common emitter amplifier. The output of this transistor is passed through a second stage of transistor amplification to sharpen up the signal's transition

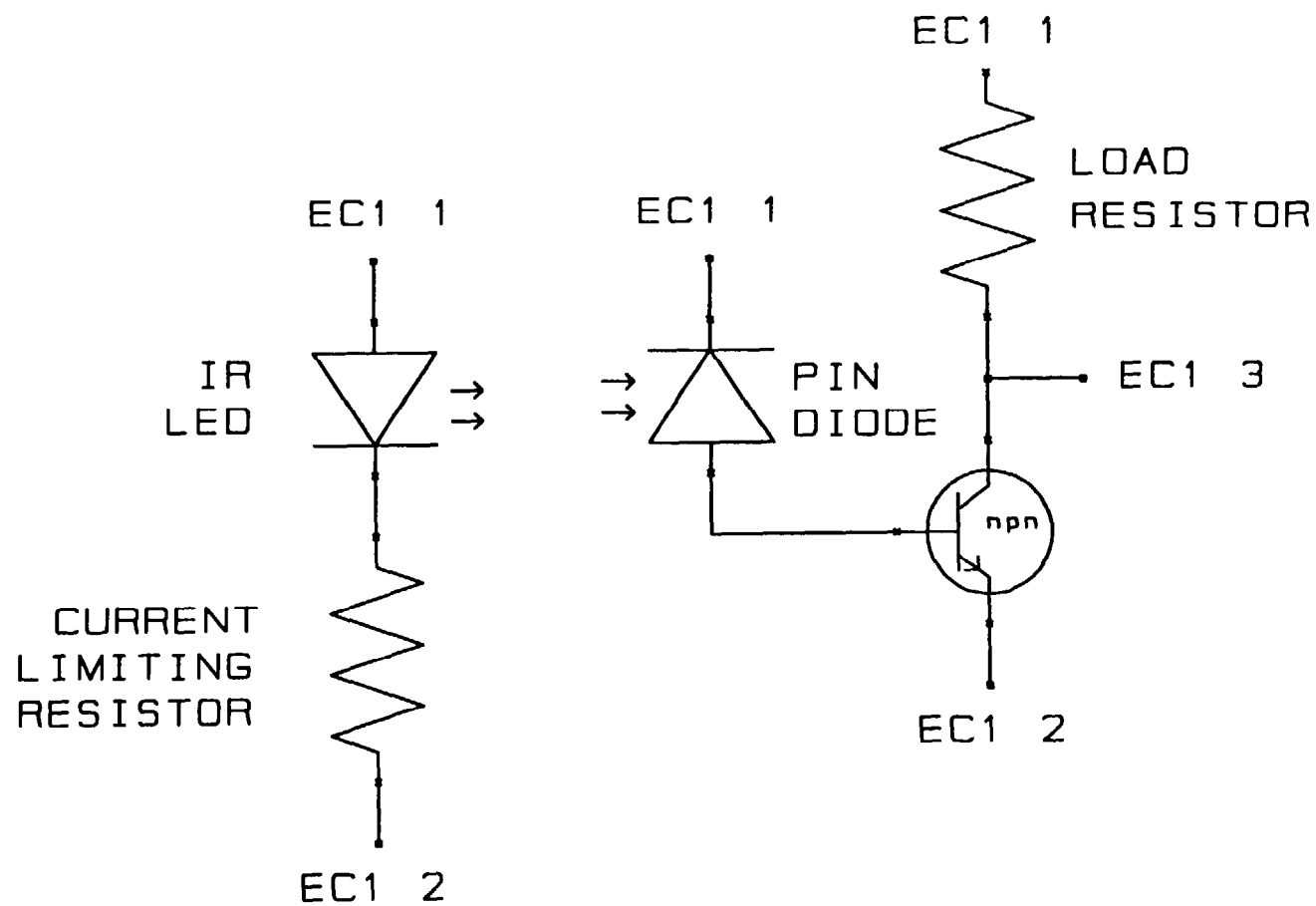


Figure 2. Electronic schematics of IR LED and PIN diode circuits.

times. This signal is further buffered by an IC inverter and input to the real-time counter clock (RTCC) pin of the microcontroller. As is discussed later, the RTCC feature of the 16C55 is used to tally the number of repetitive events.

This PIN diode signal processing scheme works well for scenarios where the PIN diode can be placed relatively close to the system's electronics. However, the long leads associated with remote placement of the photosensitive detector can introduce undesirable electronic noise. In such cases, it is prudent to include an additional stage of amplification at the PIN diode. The simple circuitry for such a preamplifier is illustrated in Figure 2.

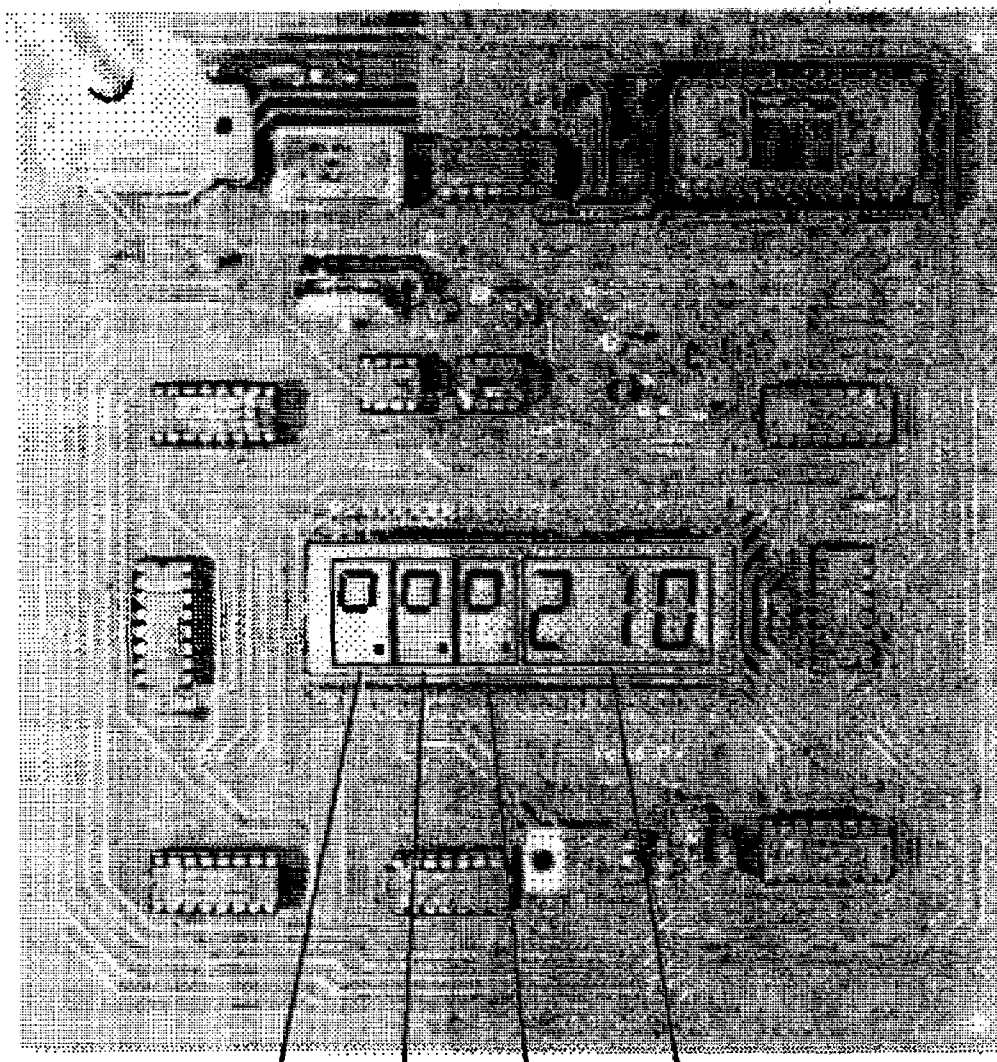
2.3 Counting Interval Generation. The frequency of a repetitive event can be determined by tallying the number of cycles that occurs in a known interval of time. For additional flexibility, the event-counting time interval for this system is variable to allow the measurement of a fairly wide range of frequencies. This is achieved through the use of an LM555 timer which produces time intervals that can be adjusted by means of a potentiometer. The RTCC input of the 16C55 can be used as an 8-bit event counter. Therefore, as many as 255 ($2^8 = 256$) events can be counted in a single interval. The listed resistive and capacitive (RC) components, which determine the duration of the counting time interval, can vary this interval from less than 40 ms to almost 10 s. Thus, relatively high resolution frequency measurements can be obtained over the range of tens of hertz to well over 5 kHz.

This LM555 monostable timer operates under the control of the 16C55 microcontroller. The 16C55 signals the monostable timer that it is prepared to tally events through a *Count Ready* pulse that momentarily pulls the trigger input of the timer low. The timer responds by outputting a high *Count Window* pulse. It is the duration of this variable pulse that determines the counting interval. The microcontroller monitors this pulse and continues to tally events as long as it remains high.

2.4 Digital Frequency Display. A liquid crystal display (LCD) is included to show the measured frequency values. The display circuitry consists of a six-digit LCD module, a driver IC for each digit, and a fixed frequency oscillator that is required to make the enabled LCD segments visible. As discussed previously, the largest possible count value during any event measurement time interval is 255. Thus, the use of a six-digit display may appear to be a blatant example of overengineering. However, this display has been configured to allow recent frequency trends, as well as the current frequency value, to be visualized. As illustrated in Figure 3, three of the digits on the right of the display are configured for standard numeral output and are used to show the latest frequency measurement. The remaining three digits on the left of the display have been set up to show symbols rather than numerals. In particular, an upper square can be displayed, a lower square can be displayed, and a combination of both the upper and lower squares can be displayed. These symbols are used to indicate whether the measured frequency values are increasing in value, decreasing in value, or remaining constant.

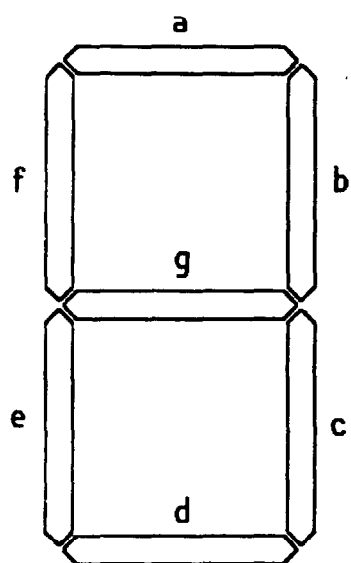
The manner in which these digits can be configured to display either numerals or symbols is illustrated in Figure 4. Section A of this figure illustrates the conventional assignment of segment designations for a seven-segment digital display. The numeral 2 would be represented, as shown in section B of this figure, with the segments a, b, d, e, and g being enabled for display. This is the manner in which the three numeral digits of the six-digit display are designated and accessed. Section C of Figure 4 illustrates the segment designation for the digits that are configured to display symbols. If the data for the numeral 2 are sent to this symbol digit, the result will be as shown in section D--a square would be displayed in the upper portion of the digit. Thus, data for the number 2 appear as a "2" when routed to a numeral digit and as an upper square when routed to a symbol digit. Similarly, numeral 5 data will appear as a lower square, and numeral 8 data will appear as both upper and lower squares when sent to a symbol digit.

Each LCD digit is driven by a 74HC4543 binary-coded decimal (BCD) to 7-segment latch/decoder/driver IC. These ICs all receive BCD display data from a common 4-bit bus that is controlled by the 16C55. Inadvertent access of more than a

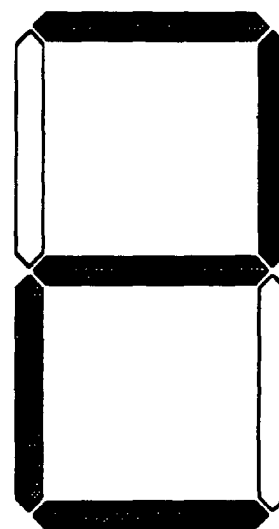


LONG	MEDIUM	SHORT	CURRENT
TIME	TIME	TIME	FREQUENCY
TREND	TREND	TREND	

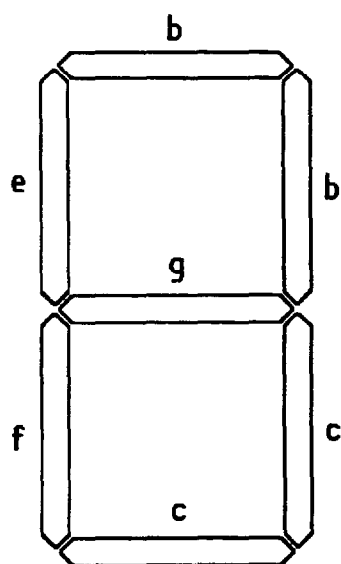
Figure 3. Illustration and explanation of frequency measurement digital display.



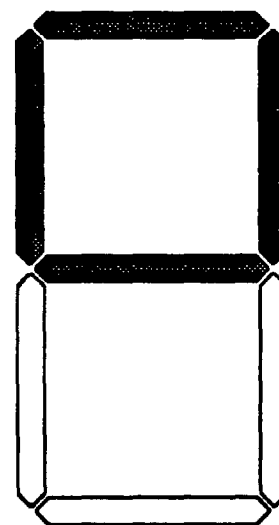
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

Figure 4. Designation of display segments for numeric and symbolic digits.

single 74HC4543 at a time is not a problem because these ICs do not latch data from the common bus until they are enabled by a momentary positive pulse to their latch disable (LD) pin. The LD pin of each 74HC4543 is routed to a separate 16C55 input/output (I/O) pin configured for output. Thus, the 16C55 transfers display data to a single LCD digit by first placing the desired data on the common display bus and then toggling the single LD pin that corresponds to the selected digit. Once the display data have been latched, the 74HC4543 decodes this BCD input to determine which segments of the chosen display digit are to be enabled for display. This method for driving the LCD display requires a 30-Hz to 200-Hz square wave signal that must be applied to the back-plane of the display and the phase input (PH) pins of the 74HC4543s. Such an LCD oscillator signal is conveniently provided by a second LM555 timer with RC components that provide a nominal 100-Hz signal.

A final feature of this digital display is the ability to display decimal points. The 16C55 controls the three decimal points associated with the symbolic display digits by accessing an equal number of tristate line drivers on a 74HC125. When accessed, each line driver will allow the corresponding decimal point to be displayed. If a line driver is not enabled, then its output assumes a high-impedance state and the decimal point is not visible. As is explained in more detail later, these decimal points are used to illustrate the system's mode of operation.

2.5 Microcontroller Interfacing. The 16C55 microcontroller orchestrates the frequency measuring and monitoring process through its multiple I/O lines. Consider first the frequency measurement process. The 16C55 announces its intention to make a frequency measurement by momentarily pulling its RA0 output line low. As previously discussed, this action initiates an LM555 timer that responds by generating a frequency counting interval pulse that is routed back to the 16C55 through the RA1 input pin. During the counting interval, the real-time clock/counter feature of the 16C55 is used to tally repetitive events. The RTCC operates in the following manner. Toggling the RTCC pin causes the microcontroller to automatically increase the value stored in an associated register by one. So, by clearing this register value when the frequency counting interval

is initiated, the RTCC register will automatically count the number of repetitive events. The 16C55 merely has to monitor the RA1 input to ascertain when the frequency counting interval comes to an end. At that time, the contents of the RTCC register is the number of events that occurred during the counting interval. This value is then transferred to a "scratch pad" register where the information is processed.

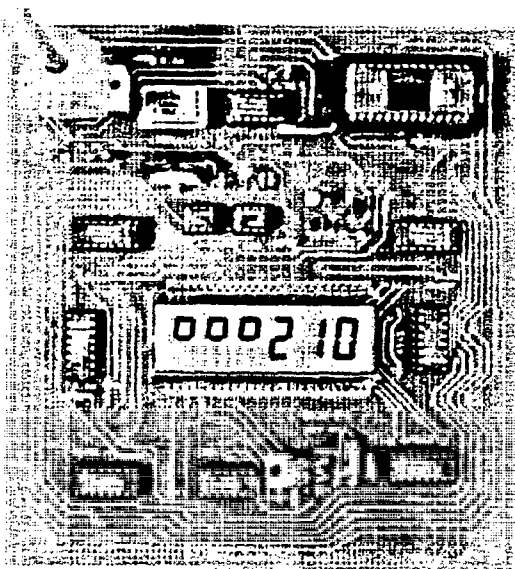
The RTCC counter operates in binary while we humans are more accustomed to dealing with decimal numbers. Therefore, microcontroller software converts the binary counter value to an equivalent three-digit decimal number that will be displayed on the LCD. This display is updated one digit at a time. Microcontroller output pins RB0, RB1, RB2, and RB3 are used to load the display data bus with the value of the digit. This information is simultaneously supplied to all the 74HC4543 LCD driver ICs. However, a data-latching pulse is only sent to the single driver IC for which the updated display data is intended. Latching pulses for the three numeric digits are supplied by microcontroller output pins RC0, RC1, and RC2 while the latching pulses for the three symbolic digits are furnished by output pins RC3, RC4, and RC5. Although the LCD is updated one digit at a time, this process occurs quickly enough that the entire display appears to change simultaneously.

The computing power of the 16C55 is used to monitor and display the recent trends in the frequency measurements in addition to the most recent measurement value. Internal registers are used to store the eight most recent frequency measurements. After every new measurement, average values are computed and compared for data spanning three different time intervals. First, the most recent frequency measurement value is compared to the previous measurement. This trivial computation provides trend information concerning the frequency variation over the shortest time interval. A frequency variation over a longer time interval is calculated by averaging the two most recent measurements and comparing that value to the average of the third and fourth most recent measurements. Finally, the frequency variation over the longest time interval is calculated by averaging the four most recent measurements and comparing that value to the average of the four measurements that preceded them. Results for each

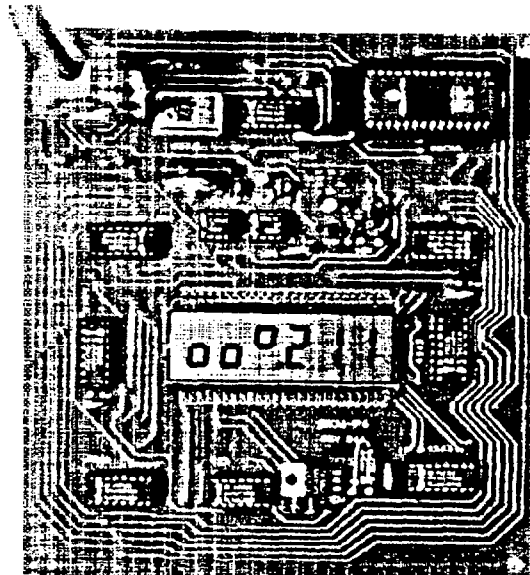
of these frequency trend calculations are displayed using the three symbolic digits, as exemplified in Figure 3. If the more recent average, over a given time interval, has increased in value, then an upper square is displayed. The lower square is displayed if a more recent time average has decreased in magnitude while both the upper and lower squares are displayed if an average value remains constant.

Figure 5 illustrates a number of display examples that depict a variety of scenarios. For each case, the three numerical digits on the right of the display show the most recently measured frequency value. In example A, the three symbolic digits on the left of the display are all showing upper squares. This indicates that the short-term, medium-term, and long-term frequency averages are all increasing. Clearly, the repetitive event that is being monitored is speeding up. Example B shows a long-term and medium-term decrease in frequency with a short-term increase in frequency. From this information it can be assumed that the repetitive process had been slowing down but has recently begun to speed up. Example C also shows a long-term frequency decrease and a short-term frequency increase. However, the medium-term symbolic display consists of both an upper and a lower square. Therefore, the repetitive event made a slower transition from the time that it was slowing down to the point where it began to speed up. In other words, the system being monitored maintained a relatively constant frequency at the frequency minimum. Finally, the display in example D indicates that for the longer time averages, the frequency has been constant. Knowledge of the system's frequency response would be required to decide whether the increase in the short-term frequency was due to an actual change in frequency or random noise.

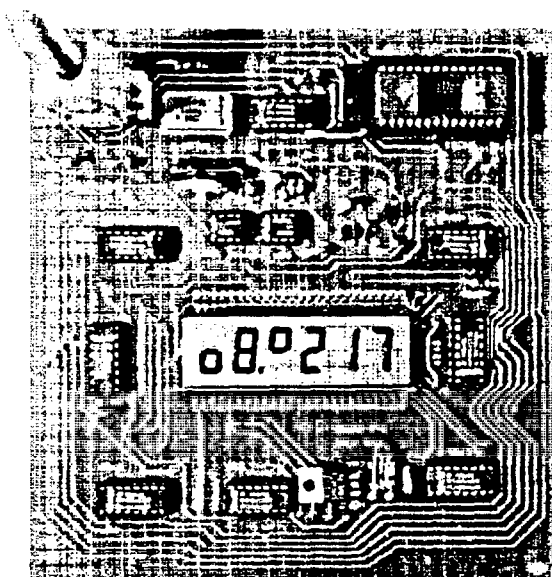
Measuring and displaying frequency trend information that spans a variety of integration times allow the user to selectively focus on the information that is most suited to the specific application. Short-term variations may represent little more than noise in repetitive systems that are not capable of rapid frequency variations. For these scenarios, the long-term trend measurements can average out the short-term noise and provide more useful information. Conversely, the short-term trend data may be more



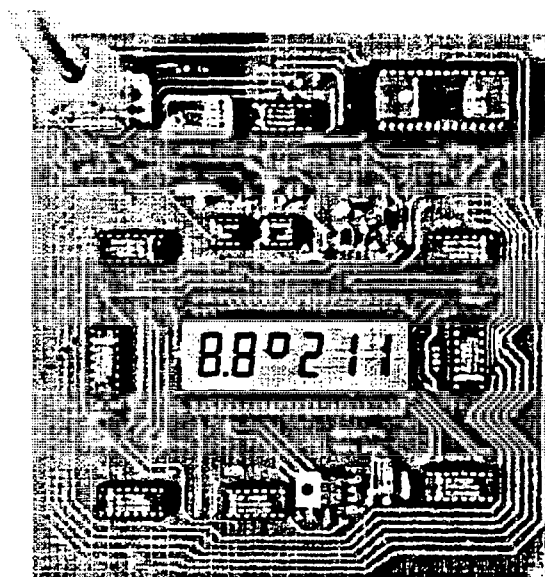
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

Figure 5. Examples of frequency measurement digital displays.

applicable to systems that are capable of rapid frequency response or where short-term variations in frequency are particularly critical.

Sitting and staring at a digital display is probably not a work assignment that a great many technical personnel would fight over. Some of the remaining I/O pins on the 16C55 can be used to avoid such an unpleasant task. Three of these pins, RA2, RA3, and RB7, have been configured as output pins and are available to drive external digital devices through connector pins EC1 7, EC1 8, and EC1 9. One particularly useful and simple external device is the piezoelectric buzzer. Under software control, such buzzers can be used to alert the user of frequency conditions that are outside a previously programmed range of acceptable operating conditions. The availability of multiple digital outputs allows the use of buzzers of different tones so that the nature of the unacceptable condition can be readily determined from the sound of the alarm. When the repetitive system is operating as required, the user can be rewarded with silence and will be able to concentrate on other matters.

These digital outputs can also be used to actively control the rate of a repetitive event. Thus, in addition to frequency measurement and monitoring, a feedback system that is used to dynamically regulate the frequency of the repetitive event can be incorporated. As an example, consider the case of the optical chopper with its rotating slotted wheel. The digital output pins can be used to increase or decrease the value of a digital counter depending on whether the measured frequency is determined to be too high or too low. Such a counter can drive a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) that controls the voltage that is supplied to the optical chopper motor. Thus, variations in measured rotational frequencies from a desired value can be used to alter the speed of the chopper motor in a manner that will decrease the frequency error. Depending on the required level of sophistication, proportional-integral-differential (PID) algorithms are available for precise motor control (Frank 1992).

The decision-making process for controlling these alarms and feedback loops can be based on either the most recent frequency measurement or one of the computed

frequency trend measurements. Recall that there are three different time intervals over which frequency trends are calculated. Therefore, some means must be provided for allowing the user to choose a specific trend interval and informing the user of which frequency trend interval is currently being used to make alarm and feedback decisions. Two 16C55 pins, RC6 and RC7, which are accessible through connector pins EC1 4 and EC 1 5, have been configured as digital inputs and are available for user control. One of these input lines can be used to sequence through the three time intervals of frequency trend calculation for digital output control. The presently selected time interval is denoted by enabling the decimal point that is associated with the symbol digit that corresponds to the chosen trend time interval. These decimal points are accessed through the output lines RB4, RB5, and RB6 of the 16C55. Figure 5 illustrates the decimal point displays associated with the four possible alarm decision modes. In example A, all the decimal points are turned off, which indicates that the alarm feature has been disabled or is operating from the most recent frequency measurement. Examples B, C, and D each have a single decimal point enabled to show that short-term, medium-term, and long-term averages are respectively being used to control the alarm and feedback functions.

A natural consequence of a world littered with microwave ovens, telephone answering machines, digital watches, radar detectors, and other overly vocal devices is the evolution of man's ability to totally ignore audio warning devices of all types. Those of us who have developed a particularly acute case of selective deafness require vast amounts of audio stimulation to get our attention. Individuals who are still conscious of their surroundings require much less prompting and are in fact prone to irritation when exposed to the stimulation levels that many of us require. In an attempt to satisfy all and to have technology work for the individual, this frequency measurement system has been configured to emit warning signals of user-selectable duration. With appropriate programming, one of the two digital input lines of the 16C55 can be used to toggle through a series of alarm duration settings. In this way, the length of the alarm signals can be selected to match the user's state of awareness.

The operation of the 16C55 microcontroller is paced by a crystal oscillator signal that is input through pin OCS1. This hardware system has been operated at oscillator clocking frequencies as high as 10 MHz. However, in practice a 1-MHz clocking frequency is sufficiently fast and avoids the need for overly long software-controlled delays that are required by some of the external hardware components. Finally, in the unlikely event that the 16C55 becomes confused, the entire microcontroller can be reset by momentarily grounding the MCLR master clear input line that is accessible through connector pin EC1 6.

Appendix A contains information that will be useful to individuals who wish to duplicate this hardware. In particular, this appendix includes a parts list, printed circuit board masks, and a table which lists the connector pin signals.

3. SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The 16C55 microcontroller contains 512 words of EPROM that are available for the long-term storage of driver software. These programs can be erased and changed at will but are nonvolatile. That is, software that is stored in the 16C55 is not lost when the power is turned off. Programs are written in 16C55 machine language, which makes some sort of an assembler-lister-compiler a virtual necessity. Microchip Technology Inc. offers a PICSTART-16B microcontroller development system that includes PC-compatible assembler software, simulator software, programmer software, and a programmer board. The MPALC macro assembler is a symbolic cross assembler that converts human-generated source code into object code for the entire family of PIC16CXX microcontrollers. Use of a macro assembler allows frequently accessed portions of the source code to be written as subroutine-like segments that can then be conveniently called using a single command. Programs can be tested and debugged using the MPSIM^{*} software simulator before being loaded into the microcontroller using the

^{*} PICSTART, MPALC, MPSIM, and PIC are trademarks of Microchip Technology Inc.

programming software and board. An ultraviolet EPROM eraser is used to clear the microcontrollers' program memory when the driving software needs to be modified.

A flowchart of the program that is used to monitor chopper wheel rotational frequencies is illustrated in Figure 6. In this flowchart, the names of macros that are used to accomplish various tasks are contained in square brackets. A listing of the source code for this program is included in Appendix B.

When powered up or following a master reset, the 16C55 microcontroller resets the program counter register to contain all "1"s. The first operational clock cycle will roll the program counter over to contain all "0"s. Therefore, a reset condition effectively begins instruction processing from a program memory address of zero. These initial instructions are programmed to define the microcontroller's I/O port directions. Each I/O pin on the 16C55 can serve as either an input or an output data pin. The default reset value is to have all the I/O pins set as high-impedance inputs. Various pins are manually defined as outputs so that the microcontroller can send data to the various display digits, alarms, and feedback loops. After initial default values are defined for the alarm duration and all the decimal point displays are turned off, the I/O port directions are once again defined. During this step, the port directions are in fact defined to the exact same configuration as they were at the beginning of the program. This apparently redundant process is included because it serves as the start of the iterative frequency measurement loop. The manufacturer notes that when operated in noisy environments, the I/O control register, which stores the defined I/O directions, can become corrupted. This potentially problematic condition is skirted by redefining the I/O control register at the beginning of every frequency measurement operation.

At this point in time, the microcontroller polls the digital input line that the user accesses to request a change in the duration of the alarm signal. If accessed, the value of the alarm duration register is incremented to the next available value. There are eight different alarm durations ranging from short clicks to obnoxiously long blasts. Each variation request implements the next longer alarm duration until the longest value is

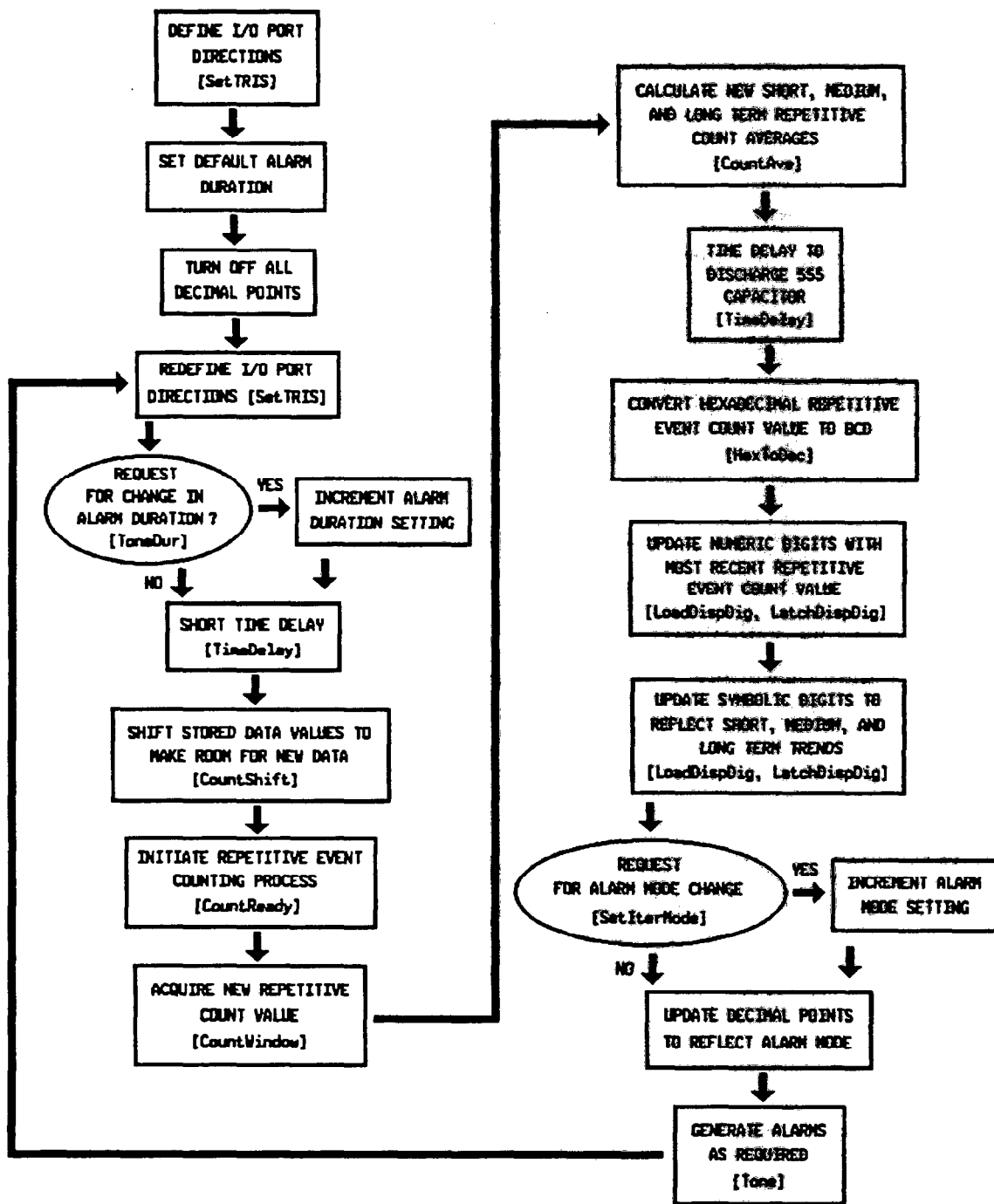


Figure 6. Flowchart of frequency measurement microcontroller software.

used. The next variation request cycles back to the shortest duration value. If a request is not being made for a change in alarm duration, then no action is taken other than the implementation of a short time delay to allow all internal and external devices to settle.

The eight most recent frequency data values are stored so that recent trends in the frequency measurements can be calculated and displayed. These values are stored in eight microcontroller registers that serve as a serial buffer. To make room for the next frequency data value, each resident value is shifted to an adjacent register. The effect of this process is to lose the oldest data value while leaving a space available for the next frequency measurement value.

The microcontroller initiates the frequency measurement counting process by outputting a negative pulse to the trigger input of an LM555. This action starts a user-adjustable time delay that defines the time interval over which repetitive events will be tallied. The microcontroller clears the RTCC register that will automatically track the repetitive events and then monitors the LM555 output for an indication that the counting interval has terminated. When the counting interval ends, the count value in the RTCC register is transferred to the first register in the serial buffer, which was vacated by the previous data-shifting process. Averages are then computed for the data stored in the serial buffer registers so that frequency trends over three time intervals can be determined and displayed.

An LM555 generates well-defined time intervals by monitoring the amount of time required for an external capacitor in an RC circuit to charge to some threshold voltage. At the end of the time interval, this capacitor is discharged and the LM555 is ready to generate another time interval. The operation of the 16C55 microcontroller is rapid enough that subsequent frequency measurement time intervals can be initiated before the LM555 timing capacitor has had a chance to fully discharge. This undesirable condition is avoided by including a microcontroller-generated time delay that allows the capacitor in the LM555 timing circuit to fully discharge prior to the start of the next measurement time interval.

The RTCC register that tallies the repetitive events is an 8-bit binary register. Therefore, the final count value is contained in this register as a series of "0"s and "1"s. These 8 bits could be divided into two 4-bit nibbles and visually displayed as two hexadecimal digits. However, hexadecimal numbers, such as D8h and 4Bh, are not as meaningful to 10-fingered humans as their decimal equivalents, 216 and 75. So, the frequency measurements are converted by software within the microcontroller to decimal values. The converted decimal digits are then displayed along with the symbolic digits that indicate the frequency trends over three different time intervals.

At this point, the microcontroller polls the digital input line that the operator accesses to request a change in the alarm or feedback mode. For the sample software in Appendix B, there are four possible alarm modes. The first of these modes is a state where all alarm functions are disabled. The remaining modes access the alarm for frequency reductions as determined by either short-term, medium-term, and long-term averaging. A request for an alarm change enables the next available alarm mode. Therefore, in order to change to a specific alarm mode, a number of mode requests may be required until the desired alarm function is obtained. The decimal points associated with the symbolic display digits are then updated to reflect the current alarm mode. Finally, a digital output line is accessed to sound an alarm as required. At this time, a single cycle of frequency measurement and display has been completed, and the software loops back to repeat the entire cycle.

4. SUMMARY

An integrated hardware/software system that was developed to economically measure, monitor, and control the frequency of repetitive events has been presented. A user-adjustable counting interval allows high-resolution frequency measurements to be obtained for repetitive events with frequencies that range from tens of hertz to several kilohertz. The flexibility of this system is further enhanced by the inclusion of microprocessor control that allows both frequency values and trends to be determined and

displayed. An assortment of digital inputs and outputs can be used to interface this system with external devices such as alarms and frequency feedback controllers. Schematic diagrams, circuit descriptions, printed circuit board masks, and a parts lists of the hardware are included. Sample software that can be used to drive the microprocessor is also presented and discussed.

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5. REFERENCES

Frank, S. "Intelligent Remote Positioner (Motor Control) Using the PIC16C5X." Application note AN531 from Embedded Control Handbook, Microchip Technology, Chandler, AZ, 1992.

Microchip Technology Inc. Microchip Data Book. Second Edition, Chandler, AZ, 1992.

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APPENDIX A:

HARDWARE FABRICATION INFORMATION

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This appendix contains information that is useful for the fabrication of the hardware that is presented in this report. In particular, this section contains a parts list, printed circuit board masks, and a table which lists the connector signals.

Table A-1. Frequency Measurement Hardware Parts List

DESCRIPTION	QUAN	PART NUMBER *	COST
8-bit microcontroller, 16C55	1	PIC16C55/JW-ND	19.13
quartz crystal oscillator, 1 megahertz	1	X101-ND	4.88
9-pin D sub connector, male	1	A2043-ND	1.39
9-pin D sub connector, female	1	A2047-ND	1.45
74HC04 hex inverter	1	MM74HC04N-ND	0.28
74HC125 tri-state quad buffer	1	MM74HC125N-ND	0.53
74HC4543 BCD-to-7 segment decoder/driver	6	MM74HC4543N-ND	9.00
LM555 timer	2	MN555CN-ND	3.30
LM340-5 5-volt regulator, TO-220 package	1	LM340AT-5.0-ND	2.25
2N3904 npn transistor, TO-92 package	1	2N3904-ND	0.31
2N3906 pnp transistor, TO-93 package	1	3N3906-ND	0.31
6-digit liquid crystal display	1	LCD005VT-ND	7.74
potentiometer, 100-kilohm	1	U201R104B-ND	0.43
capacitor, 100-microfarad, 25-volt	1	P6239	0.13
capacitor, 10-microfarad, 12-volt	1	P6343	0.22
capacitor, 0.1-microfarad, ceramic	6	P4910	2.58
capacitor, 0.01-microfarad, ceramic	2	P4904	0.42
resistor, 1-kilohm, 1/4 watt	1	1.0KQ	0.26
resistor, 4.7-kilohm, 1/4 watt	4	4.7KQ	0.26
resistor, 10-kilohm, 1/4 watt	1	10KQ	0.26
resistor, 20-kilohm, 1/4 watt	1	20KQ	0.26
resistor, 100-kilohm, 1/4 watt	2	100KQ	0.26
socket, zero insertion force, 28-pin	1	A303-ND	10.48
socket, 8-pin dual inline parallel	2	A9408-ND	0.80
socket, 14-pin dual inline parallel	3	A9414-ND	1.98
socket, 16-pin dual inline parallel	6	A9416-ND	4.50
printed circuit board (cost can vary)	1		<u>100.00</u>

total cost of hardware: 173.41

* Part numbers are as listed in Digi-Key catalog 941. Digi-Key Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Thief River Falls, MN 56701; Tel: (800) 344-4539; FAX: (218) 681-3380

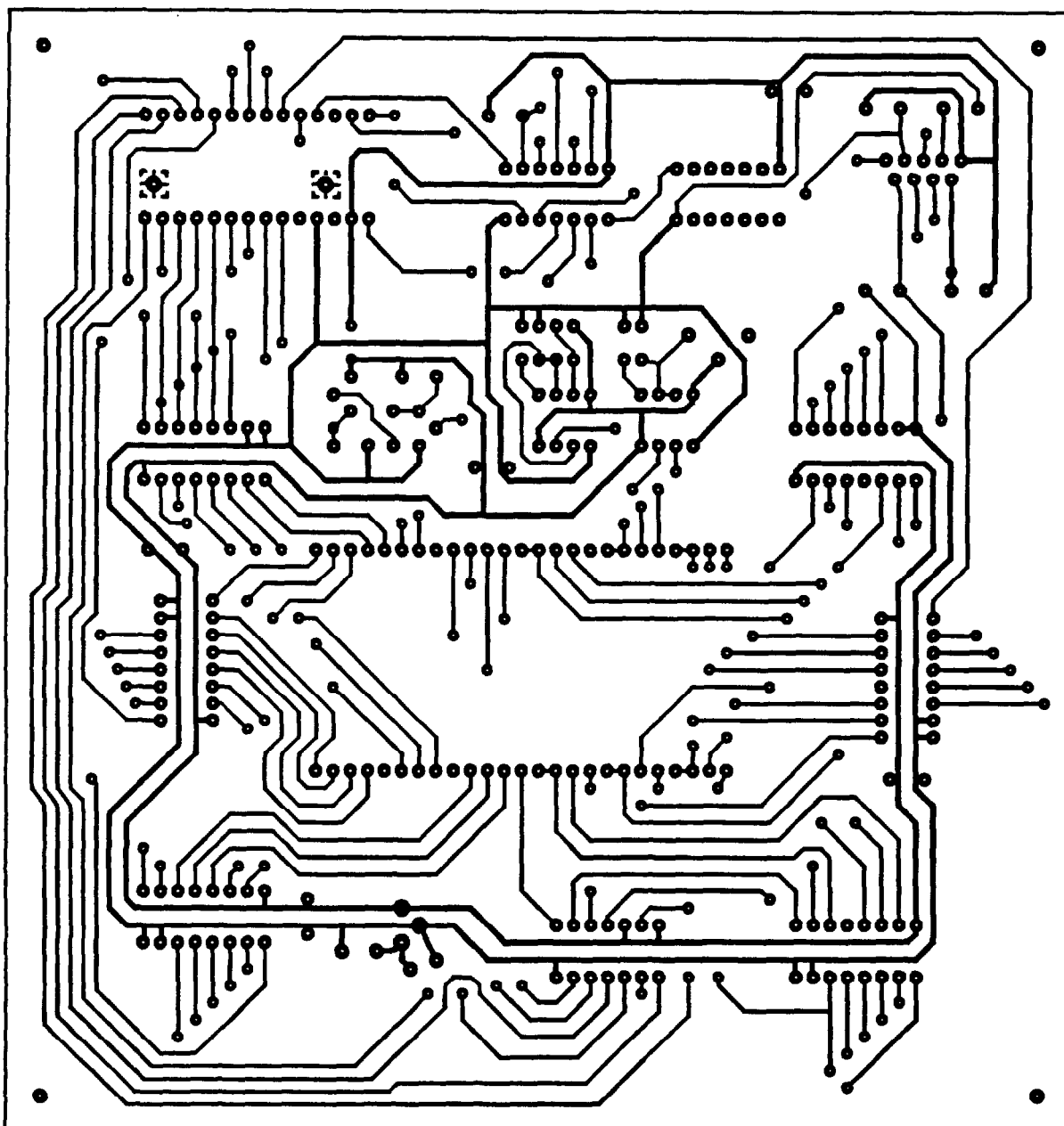


Figure A-2. Printed circuit board mask of noncomponent side.

Table A-2. Connector Pin Signals

<u>Pin No.</u>	<u>Signal Description</u>
EC1 1	+5 volts
EC1 2	ground
EC1 3	pin diode input
EC1 4	digital input, IA
EC1 5	digital input, IB
EC1 6	master reset
EC1 7	digital output, OA
EC1 8	digital output, OB
EC1 9	digital output, OC

APPENDIX B:
DRIVER SOFTWARE LISTING

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This appendix contains the software that was used to monitor optical chopper wheel rotation frequencies. The code is written for the Microchip 16C55 microcontroller using the MPALC macro assembler. Tables which enumerate and briefly describe the macros and register files along with listings of the macros and the main program are provided.

; DRIVER SOFTWARE FOR FREQUENCY MONITORING HARDWARE

;***** MACRO DIRECTORY *****

MACRO NAME	PARAMETER NAME	DESCRIPTION
SetTRIS		Initializes the bidirectional port I/O directions.
TimeDelay	Length	Generates a time delay with duration determined by the parameter magnitude. F08 and F1C are utilized as counting registers.
CountReady		Generates a negative count ready pulse. Calls TimeDelay.
CountWindow		Monitors the number of RTCC pulses during the positive count window pulse. Final RTCC value stored in F09.
HexToDec		Converts the Hexidecimal value in F09 to BCD values in F0A (units), F0B (tens) and F0C (hundreds).
LoadDispDig		Loads the display data bus with value preloaded in F08. Does not disturb the state of the decimal points.
LatchDispDig	DigPos	Generates a positive Latch Disable pulse which latches the display data for the specified digit. 0=units, 1=tens, 2=hunds, 3=SI, 4=MI, 5=LI. Calls TimeDelay.
CountShift		Transfers previously measured count values to next higher file location. F10->F11, F11->F12, ... F16->F17.
CountAve		Calculates the count averages for integrated comparison. Uses F18 through F1B.
SetIterMode		Determines which integration mode drives speaker. Uses F1D.
Tone		Generates a high pulse on OA which can be used to power a piezoelectric buzzer.
ToneDur		Varies the duration of the tone.

;*****
;*****

; FILE USAGE

; F08: scratch pad register.
; F09: decrementing register for Hex to BCD conversion.

```

; FOA: BCD units value.
; FOB: BCD tens value.
; FOC: BCD hundreds value.
; FOD:
; FOE: average of count values N-4 and N-5
; FOF: average of count values N-6 and N-7
; F10: count value N
; F11: count value N-1
; F12: count value N-2
; F13: count value N-3
; F14: count value N-4
; F15: count value N-5
; F16: count value N-6
; F17: count value N-7
; F18: average of count values N and N-1
; F19: average of count values N-2 and N-3
; F1A: average of count values N, N-1, N-2 and N-3
; F1B: average of count values N-4, N-5, N-6 and N-7
; F1C: time delay most significant decrement counter
; F1D: stores integration mode speaker mode
; F1E: stores speaker tone duration value
;
;*****

```

```

; MACRO FOR INITIALIZING THE PORT I/O DIRECTIONS -----

```

```

SetTRIS      MACRO                                ;start of MACRO to set TRIS
                                                    ;0 = output, 1 = input
                MOVLW      B'0010'                ;port A I/O direction template
                TRIS        5                      ;load port A TRIS register

                MOVLW      B'00000000'            ;port B I/O direction template
                TRIS        6                      ;load port B TRIS register

                MOVLW      B'11000000'            ;port C I/O direction template
                TRIS        7                      ;load port C TRIS register

                ENDM                                ;end of MACRO

```

```

; MACRO FOR GENERATING A TIME DELAY -----

```

```

TimeDelay    MACRO      Length                    ;start of MACRO for time delay
                                                    ;Length determines delay
                                                    ;duration

                LOCAL      InTimeLoop              ;define local labels
                LOCAL      OutTimeLoop              ;

                MOVLW      Length                    ;move time delay length value
                MOVWF      0x1C                      ;into F1C...

```

```

OutTimeLoop    MOVWF      0x08      ;and F08
InTimeLoop     DECFSZ     0x08,1    ;decriment F08
               GOTO       InTimeLoop ;if not zero go to InTimeLoop
               CLRWDW      ;clear watch dog timer
               DECFSZ     0x1C,1    ;decriment F1C
               GOTO       OutTimeLoop ;if not zero go to OutTimeLoop

               ENDM              ;end of MACRO

```

; MACRO FOR GENERATING A NEGATIVE COUNT READY PULSE -----

```

CountReady     MACRO              ;start of count ready MACRO

               BCF         5,0      ;drop the count ready line
Length         SET         0x02
               TimeDelay   Length   ;time delay to allow settling
               BSF         5,0      ;raise the count ready line

               ENDM              ;end of MACRO

```

; MACRO FOR COUNTING THE NUMBER OF RTCC PULSES -----

```

CountWindow    MACRO              ;start of count window MACRO

               LOCAL       CntWinLoop ;define local label

               MOVLW       B'00101111' ;load W with OPTION parameters
               OPTION      ;transfer W to OPTION register

               CLRF        1          ;clear F01, the RTCC counter

CntWinLoop     CLRWDW      ;clear watch dog timer

               BTFSC       5,1        ;has count window closed ???
               GOTO       CntWinLoop ; (no)
               MOVF        1,0        ; (yes) move F01 (RTCC value)
                                   ;to W
               MOVWF       0x09       ;store final RTCC value in F09
               MOVWF       0x10       ;store final RTCC value in F10

               ENDM              ;end of MACRO

```

; MACRO FOR CONVERTING HEX DATA TO BCD DATA -----

```

HexToDec       MACRO              ;start of hex to dec MACRO
                                   ;hex data preloaded in F09

               LOCAL       HexDecMore ;define local labels

```

	LOCAL	HexDecUnit	;
	LOCAL	HexDecTens	;
	LOCAL	HexDecHund	;
	LOCAL	HexDecDone	;
	LOCAL	TensNotBlank	;
	LOCAL	HundNotBlank	;
	MOVLW	B'00000001'	;load W with the value "1"
	MOVWF	0x0A	;trans "1" to BCD units file
	MOVLW	B'00001010'	;load W with the value "10"
	MOVWF	0x0B	;trans "10" to BCD tens file
	MOVWF	0x0C	;trans "10" to BCD hunds file
	MOVF	0x09,0	;transfer F09 to W
	BTFSS	3,2	;zero bit set ???
	GOTO	HexDecMore	;(no) go to HexDecMore
	MOVLW	B'00000000'	;load W with the value "15"
	MOVWF	0x0A	;trans "15" to BCD units file
	GOTO	HexDecDone	;leave routine w/ "blanks"
HexDecMore	DECFSZ	0x09,1	;dec F09, is result zero ???
	GOTO	HexDecUnit	;(no)
	GOTO	HexDecDone	;(yes)
HexDecUnit	INCF	0x0A,1	;increment units value
	MOVLW	0xA	;load W with the value "10"
	SUBWF	0x0A,0	;subtract "10" from unit value
	BTFSS	3,2	;zero bit set ???
	GOTO	HexDecMore	;(no) jump to next decrement
HexDecTens	CLRF	0x0A	;(yes) load "0" into unit file
	INCF	0x0B,1	;increment tens value
	MOVLW	0x0B	;load W with "11"
	SUBWF	0x0B,0	;subtract W from F0B
	BTFSS	3,2	;zero bit set
	GOTO	TensNotBlank	;(no) go to TensNotBlank
	MOVLW	B'00000001'	;(yes) load W with "1"
	MOVWF	0x0B	;transfer W to F0B
TensNotBlank	MOVLW	0xA	;(no) load W with value "10"
	SUBWF	0x0B,0	;subtract "10" from tens value
	BTFSS	3,2	;zero bit set ???
	GOTO	HexDecMore	;(no) jump to next decrement
HexDecHund	CLRF	0x0B	;(yes) load "0" into tens file
	INCF	0x0C,1	;increment hundreds file
	MOVLW	0x0B	;load W with "11"
	SUBWF	0x0C,0	;subtract W from F0C
	BTFSS	3,2	;zero bit set ???
	GOTO	HundNotBlank	;(no) go to HundNotBlank
	MOVLW	B'00000001'	;(yes) load W with "1"
	MOVWF	0x0C	;transfer W to F0C
HundNotBlank	GOTO	HexDecMore	;jump to next decrement
HexDecDone	NOP		

```

                                ENDM                                ;end of MACRO

; MACRO FOR LOADING DISPLAY DIGIT DATA INTO RB -----
LoadDispDig    MACRO                                ;start of digit loading MACRO
                                                ;digit value is assumed to
                                                ;already be in F08

                                MOVLW            B'11110000'    ;load AND mask into W
                                ANDWF            6,1            ;clear lower nibble of RB
                                MOVF            8,0            ;load W with contents of F08
                                IORWF            6,1            ;combine digit value and upper
                                                ;nibble of RB, leave in RB

                                ENDM

; MACRO FOR LATCHING DISPLAY DIGIT VALUE -----
LatchDispDig    MACRO            DigPos            ;start of unit latch MACRO

Length          SET              0x02            ;set the value of Length

                                BSF              7,DigPos        ;digit latch bit high
                                TimeDelay        Length        ;time delay for settling
                                BCF              7,DigPos        ;digit latch bit low

                                ENDM                                ;end of MACRO

; MACRO FOR SHIFTING COUNT VALUES IN FILES -----
;
CountShift      MACRO                                ;start of count shift MACRO

                                LOCAL            ShiftAgain      ;define local label

                                MOVLW            0x07            ;load W with "7"
                                MOVWF            0x08            ;transfer W to F08

                                MOVLW            0x17            ;load W with "17"
                                MOVWF            0x04            ;transfer W to F04

ShiftAgain      DECF              0x04,1            ;decrement FSR by one

                                MOVF              0x00,0          ;load W with contents of file
                                                ;designated by F04
                                INCF              0x04,1          ;increment FSR by one
                                MOVWF            0x00            ;transfer W to file designated
                                                ;by F04
                                DECF              0x04,1          ;decrement FSR by one

                                DECFSZ           0x08,1          ;decrement F08, skip if "0"
                                GOTO             ShiftAgain      ;go to again

```

ENDM

;end of MACRO

; MACRO FOR CALCULATING COUNT AVERAGES -----

CountAve	MACRO		;start of count average MACRO
	MOVF	0x10,0	;load W with F10
	ADDWF	0x11,0	;add F11 to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x18	;transfer W to F18
	RRF	0x18,1	;rotate F18 one bit to right
	MOVF	0x12,0	;load W with F12
	ADDWF	0x13,0	;add F13 to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x19	;transfer W to F19
	RRF	0x19,1	;rotate F19 one bit to right
	MOVF	0x18,0	;load W with F18
	ADDWF	0x19,0	;add F19 to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x1A	;transfer W to F1A
	RRF	0x1A,1	;rotate F1A one bit to right
	MOVF	0x14,0	;load W with F14
	ADDWF	0x15,0	;add F15 to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x0E	;transfer W to F0E
	RRF	0x0E,1	;rotate F0E one bit to right
	MOVF	0x16,0	;load W with F16
	ADDWF	0x17,0	;add F17 to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x0F	;transfer W to F0F
	RRF	0x0F,1	;rotate F0F one bit to right
	MOVF	0x0E,0	;load W with F0E
	ADDWF	0x0F,0	;add F0F to W, store in W
	MOVWF	0x1B	;transfer W to F1B
	RRF	0x1B,1	;rotate F1B one bit to right
	ENDM		;end of MACRO

; MACRO FOR DETERMINING WHICH ITERATION MODE DRIVES SPEAKER -----

SetIterMode	MACRO		;start of MACRO
	LOCAL	SetIterEnd	;define local variables
	LOCAL	SetIterSI	;
	LOCAL	SetIterMI	;
	LOCAL	SetIterLI	;
	LOCAL	SetIterNo	;
	BTFSS	0x07,6	;is IA activated ???
	GOTO	SetIterEnd	;(no) mode stays the same

	BTFSC	0x1D,0	;(yes) first bit of F1D set???
	GOTO	SetIterMI	;(yes) go to SetIterMI
	BTFSC	0x1D,1	;(no) second bit of F1D set???
	GOTO	SetIterLI	;(yes) go to SetIterLI
	BTFSC	0x1D,2	;(no) third bit of F1D set???
	GOTO	SetIterNo	;(yes) go to SetIterNo
	GOTO	SetIterSI	;(no) go to SetIterSI
SetIterNo	CLRF	0x1D	;clear F1D
	GOTO	SetIterEnd	;go to MACRO end
SetIterSI	CLRF	0x1D	;clear F1D
	BSF	0x1D,0	;set bit 0 of F1D -> SI
	GOTO	SetIterEnd	;go to MACRO end
SetIterMI	CLRF	0x1D	;clear F1D
	BSF	0x1D,1	;set bit 1 of F1D -> MI
	GOTO	SetIterEnd	;go to MACRO end
SetIterLI	CLRF	0x1D	;clear F1D
	BSF	0x1D,2	;set bit 2 of F1D -> LI
	GOTO	SetIterEnd	;go to MACRO end
SetIterEnd	NOP		;filler
	ENDM		

; MACRO TO GENERATE A TONE -----

Tone	MACRO		;start of tone MACRO
	LOCAL	ToneOutLoop	;define local variables
	LOCAL	ToneInLoop	;
	MOVF	0x1E,0	;load W w/ tone duration file
	MOVWF	0x1C	;into F1C...
	BCF	0x05,2	;force OA high
ToneOutLoop	MOVWF	0x08	;and F08
ToneInLoop	DECFSZ	0x08,1	;decrement F08
	GOTO	ToneInLoop	;if not zero go to InTimeLoop
	CLRWDI		;clear watch dog timer
	DECFSZ	0x1C,1	;decrement F1C
	GOTO	ToneOutLoop	;if not zero go to OutTimeLoop
	BSF	0x05,2	;force OA low
	ENDM		

; MACRO TO VARY TONE DURATION -----

```

ToneDur      MACRO                                ;start of tone duration MACRO

              LOCAL      ToneDurEnd                ;define local variable

              BTFSS      0x07,7                    ;is IB accessed ???
              GOTO       ToneDurEnd                ;(no) go to MACRO end

              MOVLW      0x1F                      ;load W with "1F"
              ADDWF      0x1E,1                    ;add W to tone duration file

ToneDurEnd    NOP                                  ;filler
              ENDM

```

***** BEGINNING OF SOURCE CODE *****

***** INITIALIZE MICROCONTROLLER

```

              SetTRIS                                ;define I/O port directions

              MOVLW      0x3F                      ;load W with "3F"
              MOVWF      0x1E                      ;trans W to tone duration file

              BSF        6,4                      ;turn off all decimal points
              BSF        6,5                      ;
              BSF        6,6                      ;
              CLRF       0x1D                    ;turn off tone generation
              BSF        0x05,2                  ;

Begin         SetTRIS                                ;define I/O port directions

              ToneDur                                ;check for change in
                                                ;tone duration

```

***** ACQUIRE AND PROCESS NEW COUNT DATA

```

Length        SET      0x03                      ;short time delay
              TimeDelay      Length

              CountShift                                ;make file room for new RTCC

              CountReady                                ;initiate count window

              CountWindow                                ;count number of RTCC pulses

              CountAve                                ;average count values

Length        SET      0x1F                      ;set Length
              TimeDelay      Length                ;delay to discharge cap in 555

```

***** UPDATE DISPLAY DIGITS

	HexToDec		;convert hex RTCC to bcd
	MOVWF	0xA,0	;load W with units value
	MOVWF	0x8	;preload F08 with units value
	LoadDispDig		;put units value on disp bus
DigPos	SET	0x00	;set DigPos for units digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch units digit data
	MOVWF	0xB,0	;load W with tens value
	MOVWF	0x8	;preload F08 with tens value
	LoadDispDig		;put tens value on disp bus
DigPos	SET	0x01	;set DigPos for tens digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch tens digit data
	MOVWF	0xC,0	;load W with hundreds value
	MOVWF	0x8	;preload F08 with hunds value
	LoadDispDig		;put hunds value on disp bus
DigPos	SET	0x02	;set DigPos for hunds digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch hundreds digit data
	MOVWF	0x10,0	;load W with N data value
	SUBWF	0x11,0	;subtract N from N-1
	BTFSC	3,2	;is result equal to "0" ???
	GOTO	SIZero	; (yes) go to zero routine
	BTFSS	3,0	; (no) is the result negative?
	GOTO	SINeg	; (yes) got to negative routine
SIPos	MOVLW	0x05	; (no) load W with lower square
	GOTO	SIMerge	;go to output routine
SIZero	MOVLW	0x08	;load W with double square
	GOTO	SIMerge	;go to output routine
SINeg	MOVLW	0x02	;load W with upper square data
SIMerge	MOVWF	0x08	;trans lower square data to
		;F08	
	LoadDispDig		;put square data on diplay bus
DigPos	SET	0x03	;set DigPos to SI digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch SI digit data
	MOVWF	0x18,0	;load W with new MI data
	SUBWF	0x19,0	;subtract old from new MI data
	BTFSC	3,2	;is result equal to "0" ???
	GOTO	MIZero	; (yes) go to zero routine
	BTFSS	3,0	; (no) is the result negative?
	GOTO	MINeg	; (yes) got to negative routine
MIPos	MOVLW	0x05	; (no) load W with lower square
	GOTO	MIMerge	;go to output routine
MIZero	MOVLW	0x08	;load W with double square
	GOTO	MIMerge	;go to output routine
MINeg	MOVLW	0x02	;load W with upper square data

MIMerge	MOVWF	0x08	;trans lower square data to
		;F08	
	LoadDispDig		;put square data on diplay bus
DigPos	SET	0x04	;set DipPos to SI digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch MI digit data
	MOVF	0x1A,0	;load W with new LI data
	SUBWF	0x1B,0	;subtract old from new LI data
	BTFSC	3,2	;is result equal to "0" ???
	GOTO	LIZero	; (yes) go to zero routine
	BTFSS	3,0	; (no) is the result negative?
	GOTO	LINeg	; (yes) got to negative routine
LIPos	MOVLW	0x05	; (no) load W with lower square
	GOTO	LIMerge	;go to output routine
LIZero	MOVLW	0x08	;load W with double square
	GOTO	LIMerge	;go to output routine
LINeg	MOVLW	0x02	;load W with upper square data
LIMerge	MOVWF	0x08	;trans lower square data to
		;F08	
	LoadDispDig		;put square data on diplay bus
DigPos	SET	0x05	;set DigPos to LI digit
	LatchDispDig	DigPos	;latch LI digit data
;***** UPDATA DECIMAL POINT DISPLAYS			
	SetIterMode		;survey IA for change of ;iteration mode request
	BSF	0x06,4	;clear all dec points
	BSF	0x06,5	;
	BSF	0x06,6	;
DigPos	SET	0x04	;set dec pnt pos for SI
	BTFSC	0x1D,0	;turn on SI dec point ???
	BCF	6,4	
DigPos	SET	0x05	; (no) set dec pnt pos for MI
	BTFSC	0x1D,1	;turn on MI dec point ???
	BCF	6,5	
DigPos	SET	0x06	; (no) set dec pnt pos for LI
	BTFSC	0x1D,2	;turn on LI dec point ???
	BCF	6,6	
;***** GENERATE TONES AS REQUIRED			
	BTFSC	0x1D,0	;is SI tone enabled ???
	GOTO	SITone	; (yes) jump to SITone
	BTFSC	0x1D,1	; (no) is MI tone enabled ???

	GOTO	MITone	; (yes) jump to MITone
	BTFSC	0x1D,2	; (no) is LI tone enabled ???
	GOTO	LITone	; (yes) jump to LITone
	GOTO	NoTone	; (no) goto NoTone
SITone	MOVF	0x10,0	; load W with N data
	SUBWF	0x11,0	; subtract N from N-1 data
	BTFSC	0x03,2	; is the zero bit set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (yes) go to NoTone
	BTFSS	0x03,0	; (no) is the carry set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (no) go to NoTone
	GOTO	YesTone	; (yes) go to YesTone
MITone	MOVF	0x18,0	; load W with new MI data
	SUBWF	0x19,0	; subtract new from old MI data
	BTFSC	0x03,2	; is the zero bit set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (yes) go to NoTone
	BTFSS	0x03,0	; (no) is the carry set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (no) go to NoTone
	GOTO	YesTone	; (yes) go to YesTone
LITone	MOVF	0x1A,0	; load W with new LI data
	SUBWF	0x1B,0	; subtract new from old LI data
	BTFSC	0x03,2	; is the zero bit set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (yes) go to NoTone
	BTFSS	0x03,0	; (no) is the carry set ???
	GOTO	NoTone	; (no) go to NoTone
	GOTO	YesTone	; (yes) go to YesTone
YesTone	Tone		; jump to Tone macro
NoTone	NOP		; filler
Length	SET	0x03	; set variable value
	TimeDelay	Length	; time delay
	GOTO	Begin	
	END		

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